



INDIANA STATE POLICE LABORATORY DIVISION PHYSICAL EVIDENCE BULLETIN

POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are offered to all agencies utilizing the polygraph testing service of the Indiana State Police. They are intended as an aid in achieving the best possible examination. The examination is to be used in conjunction with, and not in place of, an investigation.

1. Every investigative lead should be exhausted prior to scheduling the examination.
 - A. This will assist the examiner in question formulation.
 - B. It may eliminate the necessity of the examination entirely.
2. Preparing subject for the examination.
 - A. Please allow the examiner to instruct the subject in polygraph procedure.
 - B. It is the investigator's responsibility to confirm the subject's physical condition and his/her ability to take a polygraph examination.
 - (1) Frequent heart trouble, pregnancy, and chronic disorders may make the subject unsuitable for testing. It is the investigator's responsibility to check with the subject's doctor if such conditions are discovered.
 - (2) Does the subject have a prescription for medication? Establish his tolerance, dosage, when first prescribed, and reason for medication.

C. Proper dress for examination.

- (1) Generally dress should be as comfortable as possible.
- (2) Due to the blood pressure cuff, a short sleeved shirt or blouse should be worn.

D. Other preparation.

- (1) A person who is tired, hungry, or who has been interrogated immediately prior to the examination may produce polygraph charts of little value. Persons working night shifts might be too tired for suitable testing.
- (2) No alcohol, marijuana or drugs are allowed prior to the examination, with the exception of prescribed medicine previously mentioned.

3. Examination Scheduling:

- A. If possible, contact the examiner personally.
- B. Examinations may be scheduled Monday through Friday. Emergency situations will be considered individually.
- C. Normally two examinations involving different crimes are scheduled per day. If more than one suspect is to be examined in the same crime, more than two examinations can be conducted the same day.
- D. Under normal conditions, the first examination of the day is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and afternoon tests begin at 1:00 p.m. These times are adjustable.

4. Examination Day.

- A. Investigator should transport the subject to the test site.
- B. The investigator will be responsible for the custody of the suspect.
- C. All available information relative to the situation or crime under investigation must be made available to the examiner prior to exam.

5. General Information.

- A. Written consent of parents or guardians will be required before juveniles can be tested.
- B. Walk-ins will not be tested.
- C. If you must cancel a scheduled appointment, please do so as soon as that decision is reached in order that we may reschedule that time period.

Adherence to the guidelines will provide the best possible examination. Your cooperation is requested.

For further information you may wish to consult with your local District Indiana State Police Technician or the State Police Laboratory serving your area.

LABORATORY PHONE NUMBERS

Indianapolis:	317-921-5300	Toll Free – 866-855-2840
Evansville:	812-867-3157	Toll Free – 800-852-3970
Ft. Wayne:	260-436-7522	Toll Free – 800-552-0976
Lowell:	219-696-1835	Toll Free – 877-874-0009